

# **OPEN MEETING**



Arizona Corporation Commission

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## ME<u>MORANDUM</u> RECEIVED

TO:

THE COMMISSION

, 2011 NOV 18 P 3:57

FROM:

**Utilities Division** 

AZ CORP COMMISSION DOCKET CONTROL

DATE:

November 18, 2011

RE:

GLOBAL TEL\*LINK CORPORATION, VALUE-ADDED COMMUNICATIONS, INC., DSI-ITI, LLC, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC. AND ASP GTEL HOLDCO LLC - APPLICATION FOR A LIMITED WAIVER OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY HOLDING COMPANIES AND AFFILIATED INTEREST RULES (A.A.C. R14-2-801 ET SEQ.) OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF GLOBAL TEL\*LINK CORPORATION, INC., VALUE-ADDED COMMUNICATIONS, DSI-ITI, LLC, **PUBLIC** COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC., TO ASP GTEL HOLDCO LLC UNDER A.A.C. R14-2-803, AND APPROVAL OF ALL FINANCING TRANSACTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSFER OF CONTROL (DOCKET NOS. T-02871A-11-0395, T-03798A-11-0395, T-20734A-11-0395 AND T-03682A-11-0395)

#### Introduction

On October 31, 2011, Global Tel\*Link Corporation ("GTL"), Value-Added Communications, Inc. ("VAC"), DSI-ITI, LLC ("DSI"), Public Communications Services, Inc. ("PCS") and ASP GTEL Holdco, LLC ("ASP GTL") (together the "Applicants") filed an application with the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") to request a limited waiver of the requirements of the Commission's Affiliated Interest Rules (A.A.C. R14-2-801 to R14-2-806) in connection with the transfer of control of GTL, VAC, DSI and PCS or, in the alternative, approval pursuant to A.A.C. R14-2-803.

The Applicants also request approval under Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S.") § 40-285 to pledge, mortgage, lien and/or encumber the utility plant and assets of GTL, VAC, DSI, and PCS (together the "Service Providers") and, to the extent necessary, the Applicants request approval under A.A.C. R14-2-804 to provide guarantees for the proposed financing. The Applicants also request the Commission's consideration of this matter no later than December 1, 2011.

## **Background of Applicants**

## **Global Tel\*Link Corporation**

GTL is a privately-held Delaware corporation whose principal offices are located at 2609 Cameron Street, Mobile, Alabama 36607. GTL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of GTEL Holdings, Inc. GTL is engaged in the business of providing managed telecommunications

services to inmates of state and county departments of corrections and in owning and operating prison payphones and public payphones. These services enable inmates to communicate with friends, family members, legal counsel and other approved parties outside the correctional facilities. GTL provides these services throughout most of the continental United States. GTL holds a certificate of convenience and necessity ("CC&N") to provide customer owned pay telephone service in Arizona per Decision No. 59429 (December 20, 1995).

## GTEL Holdings, Inc.

GTEL Holdings is a privately held Delaware corporation whose principal offices are located at 2609 Cameron Street, Mobile, Alabama 36607. GTEL Holdings is a holding company whose only business activities are conducted through the Service Providers. GTEL Holdings is a wholly owned direct subsidiary of GTEL Acquisition Corp.

## **GTEL Acquisition Corp.**

GTEL Acquisition Corp. is a privately held Delaware corporation whose principal offices are located at 590 Madison Avenue, 41st Floor, New York, New York 10022. GTEL Acquisition Corp. is a holding company, whose only business activities are conducted through the Service Providers. GTEL Acquisition Corp. is wholly owned by GTEL Holding LLC, a privately held Delaware limited liability company whose principal offices are located at 590 Madison Avenue, 41st Floor, New York, New York 10022.

### GTEL Holding LLC

GTEL Holding LLC is a privately held Delaware limited Liability company whose principal offices are located at 590 Madison Avenue, 41st Floor, New York, New York 10022. GTEL Holding LLC is controlled by a board of managers including the CEO of GTL and other managers appointed by The Veritas Capital Fund III, L.P. and GS Direct, L.L.C. The Veritas Capital Fund III, L.P. is a private equity investment partnership managed by its sole general partner, Veritas Capital Partners III, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company. Capital Partners III, L.L.C. is controlled by its managing member, Robert B. McKeon, the managing member of Veritas Capital Fund Management, L.L.C. d/b/a Veritas Capital. Veritas Capital is a private equity investment firm headquartered in New York. Founded in 1992, Veritas Capital invests in a broad range of companies through buyouts, growth capital investments, and leveraged recapitalizations. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. owns all of the equity interests in GS Direct, L.L.C., and GS Direct, L.L.C.'s sole manager is Goldman, Sachs & Co. All of the limited partner equity interests in Goldman, Sachs & Co. are held directly or indirectly by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., and The Goldman, Sachs & Co. L.L.C. controls Goldman, Sachs & Co. as its sole general partner. All of the equity interests (voting and non-voting) in The Goldman, Sachs & Co. L.L.C. are held by The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., which is a public company listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

### Value-Added Communications, Inc.

Value-Added is a privately-held Delaware corporation whose principal offices are located at 3801 E. Plano Parkway, Suite 100, Plano, Texas 75074. Value-Added is a wholly-owned subsidiary of VAC Holding, Inc., a Texas corporation, which is in turn a direct subsidiary of GTL, which is the sole managing member of Value-Added. Value-Added is engaged in the business of providing managed telecommunications services to inmates of state and county departments of corrections and in owning and operating prison payphones and public payphones. These services enable inmates to communicate with friends, family members, legal counsel, and other approved parties outside the correctional facilities. Value-Added provides these services throughout most of the continental United States. Value-Added holds a CC&N to provide alternative operator services in Arizona per Decision No. 66456 (October 24, 2003). Value-Added is a Class A public utility based on annual operating revenues and is therefore subject to the Affiliate Interest Rules.

### **Public Communications Services, Inc.**

PCS is a privately-held California corporation whose principal offices are located at 107 St. Francis Street, 33rd Floor, Mobile, Alabama 36602. PCS is a wholly-owned direct subsidiary of GTL, which is the sole managing member of PCS. PCS is engaged in the business of providing managed telecommunications services to inmates of state and county departments of corrections and in owning and operating prison payphones and public payphones. These services enable inmates to communicate with friends, family members, legal counsel, and other approved parties outside the correctional facilities. PCS provides these services throughout most of the continental United States. PCS holds a CC&N to provide customer-owned pay telephone service in Arizona per Decision No. 61576 (March 15, 1999). PCS currently provides managed inmate services in the State of Arizona.

### **DSI-ITI, LLC**

DSI is a privately-held Delaware limited liability company whose principal offices are located at 107 SI. Francis Street, 33rd Floor, Mobile, Alabama 36602. DSI is a wholly-owned direct subsidiary of GTL, which is the sole managing member of DSI. DSI is engaged in the business of providing managed telecommunications services to inmates of state and county departments of corrections and in owning and operating prison payphones and public payphones. These services enable inmates to communicate with friends, family members, legal counsel, and other approved parties outside the correctional facilities. DSI holds a CCC&N to provide customer-owned pay telephone service in Arizona per Decision No. 72017 (December 10, 2010). DSI currently provides managed inmate services in the State of Arizona.

#### ASP GTEL Holdco, LLC

ASP GTEL Holdco, LLC ("ASP GTL") is a privately held Delaware limited liability company whose principal offices are located at 299 Park Avenue, 34" Floor, New York, New York 10171. ASP GTL is not currently providing telecommunications in any state. ASP GTEL Investco, LLC ("GTEL Investco"), a Delaware limited liability company, will own more than 90% of ASP GTL, with the remainder, in an exact amount yet to be determined, to be owned by current management of GTL. GTEL Investco in turn is controlled by American Securities Partners VI, LP ("ASP VI"), a Delaware limited partnership. The general partner of ASP VI is American Securities Associates VI, LLC ("ASA VI"), a Delaware limited liability company. The Managing Members of ASA VI are Michael G. Fisch and David Horing. After the Proposed Transaction is complete, ASP GTL will replace GTL Holding, LLC. However, the management and technical teams in charge of operations for each of the subsidiary Service Providers will not change as a result of the Proposed Transaction.

## The Applicants' Transaction

On October 28, 2011, ASP GTL, GTEL Holding, LLC and GTEL Acquisition Corp. entered into a stock purchase agreement whereby ASP GTL will purchase all of the stock of GTEL Acquisition Corp. As a result, GTEL Holding, LLC will transfer control of GTEL Acquisition Corp., GTEL Holdings, Inc. GTL, DSI-ITI, PCS, and VAC to ASP GTL. GTEL Acquisition Corp. will become a wholly owned subsidiary of ASP GTL, which will own 100% of the stock of GTL Acquisition Corp. and which will result in ASP GTEL acquiring ultimate control of GTL and its wholly owned subsidiaries DSI-ITI, PCS, and VAC.

To finance the stock purchase, GTL proposes to enter into a term credit facility of up to \$605 million (6-year maturity from the closing date) and a revolving credit facility of \$50 million (5-year maturity from the closing date). GTL will retire approximately \$558 million of debt (secured by substantially all of the assets and property of GTEL Holdings, Inc., and its subsidiaries, including the Service Providers) at the time of closing. GTL proposes to obtain additional credit, not to exceed \$145 million, following the closing date. Applicants therefore request authorization to incur aggregate debt of up to \$800 million, which will be secured by substantially all of the assets and property of GTEL Holdings, Inc., and its subsidiaries, including the Service Providers, including but not limited to a perfected first-priority pledge<sup>1</sup> of all the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A security interest is typically granted by a "security agreement". The security interest is established with respect to the property, if the debtor has an ownership interest in the property and the holder of the security interest conferred value to the debtor, such as giving a loan. The holder may "perfect" the security interest to put third parties on notice thereof. Perfection is typically achieved by filing a financing statement with government, often the secretary of state located at a jurisdiction where a corporate debtor is incorporated. Perfection can also be obtained by possession of the collateral, if the collateral is tangible property. Absent perfection, the holder of the security interest may have difficulty enforcing his rights in the collateral with regard to third parties, including a trustee in bankruptcy and other creditors who claim a security interest in the same collateral. The first priority creditor must be paid in full before the second priority creditor will receive proceeds from the sale of the pledged collateral. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Security\_interest#Pledge:

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equity interests of such subsidiaries, including the Service Providers, and guaranteed by GTEL Holdings, Inc. and its subsidiaries, including Service Providers.

## Staff's Analysis and Conclusions

The Applicants provided the information required by A.A.C. R14-2-803.A.1-11 in their application. The Applicants also provided additional information requested by Staff in subsequent discussions and emails. Staff confirmed that VAC is a Class A investor-owned utilities subject to the Commission's Public Utility Holding Companies and Affiliated Interests Rules ("Affiliated Interests Rules") by reviewing the corresponding 2010 Utility Annual Report. PCS and GTL are Customer Owned Pay Telephone ("COPT") providers and, as such, do not qualify as Class A investor-owned utilities subject to the Commission's Affiliated Interests Rules which require utilities with greater than \$1 million in jurisdictional revenues to obtain prior approval for a transfer of control transaction. The proposed transaction is based on a stock purchase that should not impact Arizona customers.

The Applicants state the proposed transaction will provide the Service Providers with greater operating flexibility to pursue operating purposes, such as, - expansion of their Arizona operations; improvement of customer service, billing, financial reporting and other management information systems; and possible acquisitions, future investments or strategic alliances. The Service Providers will continue to provide services pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in their respective tariffs. The proposed transaction will not result in a change in service provider for any customer, nor will it result in the discontinuance, reduction, loss or impairment of service to any customer.

The Applicants have indicated to Staff that the proposed transaction does not include any plans to reduce the Arizona employee-base or company assets of the joint Applicants' operations. Additionally, Staff is not aware of any parties that have raised concerns or filed objections to the proposed transaction.

A.R.S. § 40-285 requires public service corporations to obtain Commission authorization to "sell, lease, assign, mortgage or otherwise dispose of or encumber" certain utility assets. The statute serves to protect captive customers from a utility's act to dispose of any of its assets that are necessary for the provision of service; thus, it serves to preempt any service impairment due to disposal of assets essential for providing service. A.A.C. R14-2-804 requires the Commission to assess whether a guaranty will "impair the financial status of the public utility, otherwise prevent it from attracting capital at fair and reasonable terms, or impair the ability of the public utility to provide safe, reasonable and adequate service."

Based on its analysis of the proposed transaction, Staff concludes that the transaction would not impair the financial status of the Service Providers, would not impair its ability to attract capital, nor would it impair the ability of the Service Providers to provide safe, reasonable, and adequate service. Staff concludes that a pledge of the Applicant's assets would not impair the availability of service to state and county departments of corrections since the

Applicant provides competitive alternative operator services and customer-owned pay telephone services that are available from other service providers. Additionally, as the proposed transaction does not involve the merger of Arizona Competitive Local Exchange Carriers, Staff does not believe Arizona's competitive situation will be negatively impacted.

In discussion with the Applicants, Staff confirmed that prepaid customer funds and/or deposits may be encumbered as part of the security for the proposed financing. This is contrary to the practice recommended by Staff in similar applications.

On November 8, 2011, the Applicants filed an affidavit of publication verifying public notice of its proposed transaction with the Commission's Docket Control. The Applicants published notice of the application in the Arizona Republic on November 3, 2011.

#### Staff's Recommendations

Staff recommends approval of the transfer of control and associated financing transactions described in the application filed by Global Tel\*Link Corporation, Value-Added Communications, Inc., DSI-ITI, LLC, Public Communications Services, Inc. and ASP GTEL Holdco, LLC on the following conditions:

- 1. That Value-Added Communications, Inc., and Public Communications Services, Inc. shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this Decision, file with Docket Control, as a compliance item in this docket, either a statement that all Arizona customer deposits and prepayments are excluded from encumbrance, or copies of a performance bond or irrevocable sight draft letter of credit in the amount of \$125,000 for Value-Added Communications, Inc. and \$75,000 for Public Communications Services, Inc. to cover customer deposits and/or prepayments, as specified below, and provide the original performance bond or irrevocable sight draft letter of credit to the Commission's Business Office for safekeeping.
- 2. That each of the Service Providers (Global Tel\*Link Corporation, Value-Added Communications, Inc., DSI-ITI, LLC and Public Communications Services, Inc.) shall:
  - a. Increase their bond or ISDLC if at any time it would be insufficient to cover advances, deposits, and/or prepayments collected for its customers. The bond or ISDLC should be increased in increments of 50 percent of the existing amount. This increase should occur when the total amount of advances, deposits, and/or prepayments is within 10 percent of the bond or ISDLC amount.
  - b. Docket proof of the original performance bond or ISDLC with the Commission's Business Office and 13 copies of the performance bond or ISDLC with Docket Control, as a compliance item in this docket, within 90 days of the effective date of a Decision in this matter. The performance bond or ISDLC must remain in

effect until further order of the Commission. The Commission may draw on the performance bond or ISDLC on behalf of and for the sole benefit of the Service Provider's customers, if the Commission finds, in its discretion, that the Service Provider is in default of its obligations arising from its Certificate. The Commission may use the performance bond or ISDLC funds, as appropriate, to protect the Service Provider's customers and the public interest and take any and all actions the Commission deems necessary, in its discretion, including, but not limited to returning prepayments or deposits collected from the Service Provider's customers.

3. That Global Tel\*Link Corporation, Value-Added Communications, Inc., DSI-ITI, LLC, Public Communications Services, Inc. and ASP GTEL Holdco, LLC, within 90 days of a decision in this matter, file copies of the executed security documents and copies of the loan documents with the Compliance Section and file notice thereof with Docket Control. The executed security documents and copies of the loan documents should not be docketed.

Steven M. Olea

Director

**Utilities Division** 

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ORIGINATOR: Armando F. Fimbres

#### BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 1 2 **GARY PIERCE** Chairman 3 **BOB STUMP** Commissioner 4 SANDRA D. KENNEDY Commissioner PAUL NEWMAN 5 Commissioner **BRENDA BURNS** 6 Commissioner 7 IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT DOCKET NOS. T-02871A-11-0395 8 APPLICATION OF GLOBAL TEL\*LINK T-03798A-11-0395 9 CORPORATION, VALUE-ADDED T-20734A-11-0395 COMMUNICATIONS, INC., DSI-ITI, LLC, T-03682A-11-0395 10 PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, INC. AND ASP GTEL HOLDCO LLC FOR 11 A LIMITED WAIVER OF THE PUBLIC DECISION NO. UTILITY HOLDING COMPANIES AND 12 **ORDER** AFFILIATED INTEREST RULES (A.A.C. 13 R14-2-801 ET SEO.) OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, APPROVAL OF 14 TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF GLOBAL TEL\*LINK CORPORATION, VALUE-15 ADDED COMMUNICATIONS, INC., DSI-ITI, LLC, PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS 16 SERVICES, INC., TO ASP GTEL HOLDCO 17 LLC UNDER A.A.C. R14-2-803, AND APPROVAL OF ALL FINANCING 18 TRANSACTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSFER OF CONTROL 19 20 Open Meeting 21 Date to be determined Phoenix, Arizona 22 BY THE COMMISSION: 23 FINDINGS OF FACT 24 On October 31, 2011, Global Tel\*Link Corporation ("GTL"), Value-Added 1. 25 Communications, Inc. ("VAC"), DSI-ITI, LLC ("DSI"), Public Communications Services, Inc. 26 ("PCS") and ASP GTEL Holdco, LLC ("ASP GTL") (together the "Applicants") filed an 2.7

application with the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") to request a limited waiver

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of the requirements of the Commission's Affiliated Interest Rules (A.A.C. R14-2-801 to R14-2-806) in connection with the transfer of control of GTL, VAC, DSI and PCS, or in the alternative, approval pursuant to A.A.C. R14-2-803.

- The Applicants also request approval under Arizona Revised Statutes ("A.R.S." 2. § 40-285 to pledge, mortgage, lien and/or encumber the utility plant and assets of GTL, VAC, DSI, and PCS (together the "Service Providers") and, to the extent necessary, the Applicants request approval under A.A.C. R14-2-804 to provide guarantees for the proposed financing.
- 3. The Applicants also request the Commission's consideration of this matter no later than December 1, 2011.
- 4. GTL, VAC, DSI and PCS are certificated to provide intrastate telecommunications services as public service corporations in the State of Arizona.

## **Background of Applicants**

## Global Tel\*Link Corporation

5. GTL is a privately-held Delaware corporation whose principal offices are located at 2609 Cameron Street, Mobile, Alabama 36607. GTL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of GTEL Holdings, Inc. GTL is engaged in the business of providing managed telecommunications services to inmates of state and county departments of corrections and in owning and operating prison payphones and public payphones. These services enable inmates to communicate with friends, family members, legal counsel and other approved parties outside the correctional facilities. GTL provides these services throughout most of the continental United States. GTL holds a certificate of convenience and necessity ("CC&N") to provide customer owned pay telephone service in Arizona per Decision No. 59429 (December 20, 1995).

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## GTEL Acquisition Corp.

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## Value-Added Communications, Inc.

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## Public Communications Services, Inc.

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DSI is a privately-held Delaware limited liability company whose principal offices are located at 107 SI. Francis Street, 33rd Floor, Mobile, Alabama 36602. DSI is a wholly-owned direct subsidiary of GTL, which is the sole managing member of DSI. DSI is engaged in the business of providing managed telecommunications services to inmates of state and county departments of corrections and in owning and operating prison payphones and public payphones. These services enable inmates to communicate with friends, family members, legal counsel, and

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### ASP GTEL Holdco, LLC

12. ASP GTEL Holdco, LLC ("ASP GTL") is a privately held Delaware limited liability company whose principal offices are located at 299 Park Avenue, 34" Floor, New York, New York 10171. ASP GTL is not currently providing telecommunications in any state. ASP GTEL Investco, LLC ("GTEL Investco"), a Delaware limited liability company, will own more than 90% of ASP GTL, with the remainder, in an exact amount yet to be determined, to be owned by current management of GTL. GTEL Investco in turn is controlled by American Securities Partners VI, LP ("ASP VI"), a Delaware limited partnership. The general partner of ASP VI is American Securities Associates VI, LLC ("ASA VI"), a Delaware limited liability company. The Managing Members of ASA VI are Michael G. Fisch and David Horing. After the Proposed Transaction is complete, ASP GTL will replace GTL Holding, LLC. However the management and technical teams in charge of operations for each of the subsidiary Service Providers will not change as a result of the Proposed Transaction.

## The Applicants' Transaction

- 13. On October 28, 2011, ASP GTL, GTEL Holding, LLC and GTEL Acquisition Corp. entered into a stock purchase agreement whereby ASP GTL will purchase all of the stock of GTEL Acquisition Corp. As a result, GTEL Holding, LLC will transfer control of GTEL Acquisition Corp., GTEL Holdings, Inc. GTL, DSI-ITI, PCS, and VAC to ASP GTL. GTEL Acquisition Corp. will become a wholly owned subsidiary of ASP GTL, which will own 100% of the stock of GTL Acquisition Corp. and which will result in ASP GTEL acquiring ultimate control of GTL and its wholly owned subsidiaries DSI-ITL, PCS, and VAC.
- 14. To finance the stock purchase, GTL proposed to enter into a term credit facility of up to \$605 million (6-year maturity from the closing date) and a revolving credit facility of \$50 million (5-year maturity from the closing date). GTL will retire approximately \$558 million of debt (secured by substantially all of the assets and property of GTEL Holdings, Inc., and its

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subsidiaries, including the Service Providers) at the time of closing. GTL proposes to obtain additional credit, not to exceed \$145 million, following the closing date. Applicants therefore request authorization to incur aggregate debt of up to \$800 million, which will be secured by substantially all of the assets and property of GTEL Holdings, Inc., and its subsidiaries, including the Service Providers, including but not limited to a perfected first-priority pledge<sup>1</sup> of all the equity interests of such subsidiaries, including the Service Providers, and guaranteed by GTEL Holdings, Inc. and its subsidiaries, including Service Providers.

## Staff's Analysis and Conclusions

- 15. The Applicants provided the information required by A.A.C. R14-2-803.A.1-11 in their application. The Applicants also provided additional information requested by Staff in subsequent discussions and emails. Staff confirmed that VAC is a Class A investor-owned utilities subject to the Commission's Public Utility Holding Companies and Affiliated Interest Rules ("Affiliated Interests Rules") by reviewing the corresponding 2010 Utility Annual Report.
- 16. PCS and GTL are Customer Owned Pay Telephone ("COPT") providers and, as such, do not qualify as Class A investor-owned utilities subject to the Commission's Public Utility Holding Companies and Affiliated Interests Rules which require utilities with greater than \$1 million in jurisdictional revenues to obtain prior approval for a transfer of control transaction. The proposed transaction is based on a stock purchase that should not impact Arizona customers.
- 17. The Applicants state the proposed transaction will provide the Service Providers with greater operating flexibility to pursue operating purposes, such as, expansion of their Arizona operations; improvement of customer service, billing, financial reporting and other

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A security interest is typically granted by a "security agreement". The security interest is established with respect to the property, if the debtor has an ownership interest in the property and the holder of the security interest conferred value to the debtor, such as giving a loan. The holder may "perfect" the security interest to put third parties on notice thereof. Perfection is typically achieved by filing a financing statement with government, often the secretary of state located at a jurisdiction where a corporate debtor is incorporated. Perfection can also be obtained by possession of the collateral, if the collateral is tangible property. Absent perfection, the holder of the security interest may have difficulty enforcing his rights in the collateral with regard to third parties, including a trustee in bankruptcy and other creditors who claim a security interest in the same collateral. The first priority creditor must be paid in full before the creditor will receive proceeds from the sale of pledged collateral.; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Security\_interest#Pledge

management information systems; and possible acquisitions, future investments or strategic alliances.

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18. The Service Providers will continue to provide services pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in their respective tariffs. The proposed transaction will not result in a change in service provider for any customer, nor will it result in the discontinuance, reduction, loss or impairment of service to any customer.

- 19. The Applicants have indicated to Staff that the proposed transaction does not include any plans to reduce the Arizona employee-base or company assets of the joint Applicants' operations. Additionally, Staff is not aware of any parties that have raised concerns or filed objections to the proposed transaction.
- 20. A.R.S. § 40-285 requires public service corporations to obtain Commission authorization to "sell, lease, assign, mortgage or otherwise dispose of or encumber" certain utility assets. The statute serves to protect captive customers from a utility's act to dispose of any of its assets that are necessary for the provision of service; thus, it serves to preempt any service impairment due to disposal of assets essential for providing service.
- 21. A.A.C. R14-2-804 requires the Commission to assess whether a guaranty will "impair the financial status of the public utility, otherwise prevent it from attracting capital at fair and reasonable terms, or impair the ability of the public utility to provide safe, reasonable and adequate service."
- 22. Based on its analysis of the proposed transaction, Staff concludes that the transaction would not impair the financial status of the Service Providers, would not impair its ability to attract capital, nor would it impair the ability of the Service Providers to provide safe, reasonable, and adequate service. Staff concludes that a pledge of the Applicant's assets would not impair the availability of service to state and county departments of corrections since the Applicant provides competitive alternative operator services and customer-owned pay telephone services that are available from other service providers. Additionally, as the proposed transaction does not involve the merger of Arizona Competitive Local Exchange Carriers, Staff does not believe Arizona's competitive situation will be negatively impacted.

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23. In discussion with the Applicants, Staff confirmed that prepaid customer funds and/or deposits may be encumbered as part of the security for the proposed financing. This is contrary to the practice recommended by Staff in similar applications.

24. On November 8, 2011, the Applicants filed an affidavit of publication verifying public notice of its proposed transaction with the Commission's Docket Control. The Applicants published notice of the application in the Arizona Republic on November 3, 2011.

## Staff's Recommendations

- 25. Staff recommends approval of the transfer of control and associated financing transactions described in the application filed by Global Tel\*Link Corporation, Value-Added Communications, Inc., DSI-ITI, LLC, Public Communications Services, Inc. and ASP GTEL Holdco, LLC on the following conditions:
  - A. That Value-Added Communications, Inc., and Public Communications Services, Inc. shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this Decision, file with Docket Control, as a compliance item in this docket, either a statement that all Arizona customer deposits and prepayments are excluded from encumbrance, or copies of a performance bond or irrevocable sight draft letter of credit in the amount of \$125,000 for Value-Added Communications, Inc. and \$75,0000 for Public Communications Services, Inc. to cover customer deposits and/or prepayments, as specified below, and provide the original performance bond or irrevocable sight draft letter of credit to the Commission's Business Office for safekeeping.
  - B. That each of the Service Providers (Global Tel\*Link Corporation, Value-Added Communications, Inc., DSI-ITI, LLC and Public Communications Services, Inc.) shall:
    - 1. Increase their bond or ISDLC if at any time it would be insufficient to cover advances, deposits, and/or prepayments collected for its customers. The bond or ISDLC should be increased in increments of 50 percent of the existing amount. This increase should occur when the total amount of advances, deposits, and/or prepayments is within 10 percent of the bond or ISDLC amount.
    - 2. Docket proof of the original performance bond or ISDLC with the Commission's Business Office and 13 copies of the performance bond or ISDLC with Docket Control, as a compliance item in this docket, within 90 days of the effective date of a Decision in this matter. The performance bond or ISDLC must remain in effect until further order of the Commission. The Commission may draw on the performance bond or ISDLC on behalf of and for the sole benefit of the Service Provider's customers, if the Commission finds, in its discretion, that the Service Provider is in default of its obligations arising

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interest and take any and all actions the Commission deems necessary, in its discretion, including, but not limited to returning prepayments or deposits collected from the Service Provider's customers.

t Global Tel\*Link Corporation, Value-Added Communications, Inc., DSI-ITI, C, Public Communications Services, Inc. and ASP GTEL Holdco, LLC, within

from its Certificate. The Commission may use the performance bond or ISDLC funds, as appropriate, to protect the Service Provider's customers and the public

C. That Global Tel\*Link Corporation, Value-Added Communications, Inc., DSI-ITI, LLC, Public Communications Services, Inc. and ASP GTEL Holdco, LLC, within 90 days of a decision in this matter, file copies of the executed security documents and copies of the loan documents with the Compliance Section and file notice thereof with Docket Control. The executed security documents and copies of the loan documents should not be docketed.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- Global Tel\*Link Corporation, Value-Added Communications, Inc., DSI-ITI, LLC
   And Public Communications Services, Inc. are public service corporation within the meaning of Article XV of the Arizona Constitution.
- 2. The Commission has jurisdiction over Global Tel\*Link Corporation, Value-Added Communications, Inc., DSI-ITI, LLC and Public Communications Services, Inc. and the subject matter in this filing.
- 3. The Commission, having reviewed the filing and Staff's Memorandum dated November 18, 2011, concludes that it is in the public interest to grant approval as proposed and discussed herein.

#### **ORDER**

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the application of Global Tel\*Link Corporation, Value-Added Communications, Inc., DSI-ITI, LLC, Public Communications Services, Inc. and ASP GTEL Holdco, LLC seeking approval for the transfer of control of Global Tel\*Link Corporation, Value-Added Communications, Inc., DSI-ITI, LLC and Public Communications Services, Inc. to ASP GTEL Holdco, LLC, and associated financing, as described herein, be and hereby is approved.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Value-Added Communications, Inc. and Public Communications Services, Inc. shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this Decision, file with Docket Control, as a compliance item in this docket, either a statement that all Arizona customer deposits and prepayments are excluded from encumbrance, or copies of a performance bond or

irrevocable sight draft letter of credit in the amount of \$125,000 for Value-Added Communications, Inc. and \$75,000 for Public Communications Services, Inc. to cover customer deposits and/or prepayments, as specified below, and provide the original performance bond or irrevocable sight draft letter of credit to the Commission's Business Office for safekeeping.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each of the Service Providers (Global Tel\*Link Corporation, Value-Added Communications, Inc., DSI-ITI, LLC and Public Communications Services, Inc.) shall increase its bond or ISDLC if at any time it would be insufficient to cover advances, deposits, and/or prepayments collected for its customers. The bond or ISDLC should be increased in increments of 50 percent of the existing amount. This increase should occur when the total amount of advances, deposits, and/or prepayments is within 10 percent of the bond or ISDLC amount.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that each of the Service Providers (Global Tel\*Link Corporation, Value-Added Communications, Inc., DSI-ITI, LLC and Public Communications Services, Inc.) shall docket proof of the original performance bond or ISDLC with the Commission's Business Office and 13 copies of the performance bond or ISDLC with Docket Control, as a compliance item in this docket, within 90 days of the effective date of a Decision in this matter. The performance bond or ISDLC must remain in effect until further order of the Commission. The Commission may draw on the performance bond or ISDLC on behalf of and for the sole benefit of the Service Provider's customers, if the Commission finds, in its discretion, that the Service Provider is in default of its obligations arising from its Certificate. The Commission may use the performance bond or ISDLC funds, as appropriate, to protect the Service Provider's customers and the public interest and take any and all actions the Commission deems necessary, in its discretion, including, but not limited to returning prepayments or deposits collected from the Service Provider's customers

. . .

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Global Tel\*Link Corporation, Value-Added Communications, Inc., DSI-ITI, LLC, Public Communications Services, Inc. and ASP GTEL Holdco, LLC are authorized to engage in any transactions and to execute any documents necessary to effectuate the authorizations granted. Decision No.

1	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Global Tel*Link Corporation, Value-Added
2	Communications, Inc., DSI-ITI, LLC, Public Communications Services, Inc. and ASP GTEL
3	Holdco, LLC shall, within 90 days of a decision in this matter, file copies of the executed security
4	documents and copies of the loan documents with the Compliance Section and file notice thereof
5	with Docket Control. The executed security documents and copies of the loan documents should
6	not be docketed.
7	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this decision shall become effective immediately.
8	
9	BY THE ORDER OF THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION
10	
11	CHAIRMAN COMMISSIONER
12	
13	
14	COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER
15	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, ERNEST G. JOHNSON.
16	Executive Director of the Arizona Corporation Commission
17	have hereunto, set my hand and caused the official seal of this Commission to be affixed at the Capitol, in the City of Phoenix.
18	this day of, 2011.
19	
20	ERNEST G. JOHNSON
21	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
22	
23	DISSENT:
24	DISSENT:
25	
26	SMO:AFF:lhm\RM
27	
28	
	Decision No

28

1 2 DOCKET NOS. 3 11-0395 4 Ms. Joan S. Burke Law Office of Joan S. Burke 5 1650 North First Avenue 6 Phoenix, Arizona 85003 Attorney for Global Tel'Link Corporation, 7 Value-Added Communications, Inc., DSI-ITI, LLC, Public Communications Services, Inc. and GTEL Holdings, Inc. 8 9 Mr. Michael H. Pryor DowLohnes PLLC 10 1200 New Hampshire Avenue, Suite 800 Washington, DC 20036 11 Attorney for ASP GTEL Holdco, LLC 12 Mr. Steven M. Olea 13 Director, Utilities Division Arizona Corporation Commission 14 1200 West Washington Street Phoenix, Arizona 85007 15 Ms. Janice M. Alward 16 Chief Counsel, Legal Division Arizona Corporation Commission 17 1200 West Washington Street 18 Phoenix, Arizona 85007 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

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